



THE PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD



National Park Service **Environmental Achievement Award Ceremony**

The Presidio Restoration Advisory Board was selected by the National Park Service to receive a 2015 Environmental Achievement Award for significant accomplishments in the Environmental Remediation category. The NPS commended the RAB as a partner whose efforts demonstrated highly effective collaboration to achieve cleanup objectives and to remediate and prevent contamination on Department of the Interior land. The award recognizes the RAB for dedicating 20 years to environmental remediation and restoration at the Presidio of San Francisco.

Since 2002, the NPS has given Environmental Achievement Awards to recognize staff and partners in the area of environmental preservation, protection and stewardship. The other five 2015 Environmental Achievement Award recipients include the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone and Olympic National Parks, Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve and Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park. In a September 15, 2015 memorandum announcing the RAB as winner of the 2015 award, Jonathan Jarvis, Director of the National Park Service, conveyed his thanks and appreciation to the former RAB members for their outstanding efforts.

The National Park Service held the award ceremony on April 4, 2016, at the General's Residence on the Upper Fort Mason in San Francisco. Hosts for the event were Brian Ullensvang, Chief of the Environmental & Safety Programs Office at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and Laura Castellini, Sustainability Coordinator for the GGNRA. Christine Lehnertz, Superintendent of the GGNRA, presented the award and plaque to former RAB members.



General's Residence at Upper Fort Mason and site of National Park Services's Environmental Achievement Award ceremony for former RAB members on April 4, 2016.

Photo: National Park Service

Former RAB members attending the award ceremony were Jan Blum, John Budroe, Julia (Julie) Cheever, Molly Hooper, Julian Hultgren, Doug Kern, Jan Monaghan and Mark Youngkin. Representing the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy was Sharon Farrell, Associate Director of Park Projects, who also formerly worked at the National Park Service and Presidio Trust. Clay Harrell, Senior Communications Account Executive, attended for the Presidio Trust. William Shepard, Chair of the Neighborhood Associations for Presidio Planning, attended the ceremony representing the community at large.

GGNRA Superintendent Christine Lehnertz, who formerly worked at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, presented the award to former RAB members with the following comments: "One of the things I know is that when you have a RAB that does the work you did, you preserve special places in America forever. You solved solutions that people might not be able to reach agreement upon. And what happens with an organization like the Army is that your passion and devotion makes all the difference. It makes you rock stars in the eyes of natural resource protection and protecting cultural resources. So I know that over 20 years you made a huge difference and you were able to achieve solutions on the ground at the Presidio that otherwise would not have happened. And it is through the power and vision of citizens and people who care that pushes organizations like us and the Department of Interior and Department of Army to make good choices and provide technical expertise at the forefront and your advice and guidance, not just from consultants, makes all the difference."



Group photograph taken at the April 4, 2016 NPS Environmental Achievement Award ceremony. From left to right: GGNRA Superintendent Christine Lehnertz; former RAB members Julian Hultgren, Molly Hooper, Mark Youngkin, Jan Blum, Jan Monaghan, John Budroe, Julie Cheever and Doug Kern; GGNRA Environmental and Safety Program Chief Brian Ullensvang. Photo: Barbara Corff

A copy of the NPS 2015 Environmental Achievement Award is attached to this summary. Also attached is a memorandum from National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis awarding the 2015 Environmental Achievement Award to the RAB.

Sharon Farrell of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy told the group that the RAB helped the park to achieve more in restoring natural areas on the Presidio. "I want to say how much you are a model to the junior staff that I work with about the power and conviction of community activism and outreach and support in such a brilliant way....The Presidio would not look like it does today in the natural areas without your help."

RAB members greatly appreciate Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi's support of the environmental cleanup and the RAB over the twenty years of our service. Dan Bernal, Chief of Staff, San Francisco, for Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, attended the award ceremony and presented former RAB members with a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition in recognition of outstanding and invaluable service to the community. The certificate is attached to this summary. In remarks to the group, he expressed Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi's appreciation for the efforts of the RAB in "making the Presidio the wonderful place that it is today."



Sharon Farrell addressing award ceremony with William Shepard, Fred Altshuler and Laura Castellini.
Photo: Barbara Corff



Dan Bernal, Chief of Staff - San Francisco for Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (second from right) at award ceremony on April 4, 2016, shown presenting the Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition to all former RAB members: left to right: Mark Youngkin, Jan Blum, Julia Cheever, John Budroe and Doug Kern. Photo: Barbara Corff

Brian Ullensvang, who served as a RAB agency member for 19 years, commented, "The RAB was quite an organization. Without the RAB there would not have been a cleanup."

Eileen Fanelli, Presidio Trust Environmental Remediation Program Manager from 2008-2014, sent the following statement to former RAB members: "I am very glad to see you all recognized by the NPS. The cleanup program was a major, collaborative effort. I hope it is remembered for how we successfully used the public process to maintain focus on the ultimate goal of building a beautiful public place from what was once a place off-limits to the public. The RAB should also be held as an example of our civic duty as individuals to participate and be stewards of our future."

RAB members previously received individual certificates of commendation from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors on November 19, 2004. An example of one of the certificates is attached to this summary.

In November 2015, RAB members received a letter of commendation from Neighborhood Associations for Presidio Planning (NAPP). That letter is also attached. The letter thanked the former RAB members for their dedication and excellent work in the Presidio for 20 years. NAPP Chair William Shepard wrote: "The Presidio RAB's many accomplishments are invaluable in protecting the environment from further contamination and eliminating large scale contamination throughout the Presidio. The Presidio RAB's tenacity in doing its own analysis and its advocacy on a project by project basis have made the Presidio a far better place for its wildlife, vegetation, water quality and the millions of people who visit and work there. The relentless drive of the Presidio RAB's members in working with the Presidio Trust staff for all those years clearly earned the Trust's respect as well as NAPP's. While the economics of cleaning up such a vast area apparently necessitated compromises by the Presidio Trust, Presidio RAB pushed the Trust to do more extensive clean ups than would otherwise have occurred. All the Presidio RAB members have NAPP's gratitude for making the Presidio a better, environmentally safe parkland."

At the 2016 award ceremony, William Shepard said, "The RAB was very ferocious in its work. You did not yield. You stayed with the issues and the group did not compromise just because it had a lot of opposition, and fought their way on. I am really impressed with the results. Thank you."

Summary prepared by Mark Youngkin, former Community Co-Chair
Presidio of San Francisco Restoration Advisory Board
April 15, 2016

Attachment:

NPS Memorandum dated September 15, 2015 from NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis
Plaque - NPS 2015 Environmental Achievement Award presented to RAB
Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition dated April 4, 2016 by Nancy Pelosi
Letter from Neighborhood Associations for Presidio Planning dated Nov. 3, 2015
San Francisco Board of Supervisors Certificate of Honor to RAB community members



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

SEP 15 2015

4.A1 (WASO-PFMD)

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Golden Gate National Recreation Area – Presidio of San Francisco

Through: Regional Director, Pacific West Region *Martha L.*

From: Director *Julia S. Jarvis*

Subject: Winner, 2015 National Park Service Environmental Achievement Award

It is my pleasure to congratulate you on the selection of the Presidio Restoration Advisory Board as a recipient of the 2015 National Park Service (NPS) Environmental Achievement (EA) Award for significant accomplishments in the Environmental Remediation award category. The Board dedicated the last 20 years to remediation and restoration at the Presidio of San Francisco. Their accomplishments include removing 576 petroleum storage tanks and more than eight miles of fuel pipelines; remediating 32 petroleum sites; addressing 76 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act sites, including 16 landfills; and addressing lead-based paint in soil around 814 structures.

A complete award package will be forwarded within the next few days. Upon receipt, please arrange an appropriate presentation and convey my thanks and appreciation to the recipient for their outstanding efforts. Congratulations on this noteworthy achievement.

If you have any questions or comments concerning the NPS EA Awards, please contact Shawn Norton, Branch Chief, Sustainable Operations and Climate Change Branch, Park Facility Management Division, at 202/354-1835.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**



**2015
ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD**

is presented to

**Presidio Restoration Advisory Board
Golden Gate National Recreation Area**

For superior accomplishments in environmental remediation and restoration
in support of the National Park Service's commitment to
sustaining and preserving natural resources.



*Certificate of Special
Congressional Recognition*

*Presented to
Presidio Restoration Advisory Board
2015 NPS Environmental Achievement Award*

*in recognition of outstanding and invaluable
service to the community.*

April 4, 2016

DATE

Nancy Pelosi
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS FOR PRESIDIO PLANNING

Box 29086, Presidio Station, San Francisco, California 94129

415-990-9059

November 3, 2015

Cow Hollow
Association

Golden Gate Valley
Neighborhood
Association

Lake Street
Residents
Association

Laurel Heights
Improvement
Association

Marina
Community
Association

Pacific Heights
Residents
Association

Planning Association
for the Richmond

Presidio Heights
Association of
Neighbors

Presidio Terrace
Association

Sea Cliff Properties
Association

Presidio of San Francisco Restoration
Advisory Board
c/o Ms. Julie Cheever

San Francisco, CA

Re: Thank You RAB Members

Dear Board Members,

The Neighborhood Associations of Presidio Planning (NAPP) thanks all the members of the Presidio of San Francisco Restoration Advisory Board (Presidio RAB) for their dedication and excellent work in the Presidio over the past 20 years. The Presidio RAB's many accomplishments are invaluable in protecting the environment from further contamination and eliminating large scale contamination throughout the Presidio. The Presidio RAB's tenacity in doing its own analysis and its advocacy on a project by project basis have made the Presidio a far better place for its wildlife, vegetation, water quality and the millions of people who visit and work there. The relentless drive of the Presidio RAB's members in working with the Presidio Trust staff for all those years clearly earned the Trust's respect as well as NAPP's. While the economics of cleaning up such a vast area apparently necessitated compromises by the Presidio Trust, Presidio RAB pushed the Trust to do more extensive clean ups than would otherwise have occurred. All the Presidio RAB members have NAPP's gratitude for making the Presidio a better, environmentally safe parkland.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

William Shepard
NAPP Chair



Example of Board of Supervisors Certificate of Honor awarded to all RAB Community Members